

Field Test Completion Information

As of May 19, a total of 869,325 tests were completed by Connecticut students. In addition, over 240,000 unique students have taken tests. The current number of tests started and completed across all Consortium states can be found on the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#). Each “test” included in these counts represents a PT or Non-PT within a content area.

Field Test Participation

As districts approach the end of the Smarter Balanced testing window, please ensure that Test Administrators are communicating to students the importance of participating in the field test. Connecticut students have been participating in field testing for the past 30 years. Field testing is a critical component of the assessment development process as it ensures that the item calibration studies and achievement level setting process provide accurate item statistics that will allow for making valid inferences about what students know and can do. It is important for Connecticut students to participate in the field test to ensure that our students are well represented in these studies.

Upcoming Key Dates

March 25–June 6, 2014:

Field Test administration window

June 9–13, 2014:

Optional make-up week

Practice Test Update

On Monday, a refreshed practice test was released. This new version includes additional embedded universal tools and several new designated supports and accommodations. The revised practice test also includes new item types, as well as items that span a range of difficulty. The practice tests can be accessed on the [Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Test Page](#). Please note that due to a late operational schedule change, some of the spoken language supports for mathematics PTs will be delayed. It is anticipated that these additional supports will be included on June 23, 2014.

Updates for Special Populations

In preparation for the 2014-2015 school year, various documents have been created for special populations. They include:

- [Test Supports/Accommodations Form: General Education, Special Education, Section 504 Students, EL Students](#) - This document is used to indicate what accommodations and/or supports are needed during testing on the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the CMT/CAPT Science Assessment.

- [Supports/Accommodations Quick Guide](#) - This document appears as the second page of the Test Supports/Accommodations Form: General Education, Special Education, Section 504 Students, EL Students. It is intended as a quick description of the supports and accommodations available on the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the CMT/CAPT Science Assessment. A more complete guideline will be made available that will replace the [Assessment Guidelines 2012-2013 Edition](#) available on the Student Assessment Web site.
- [Connecticut Read Aloud Protocol for Smarter Balanced Assessments Security/Confidentiality Agreement](#) - This document in conjunction with [Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader](#) allows a certified educator to provide a read aloud when the text-to-speech is not available to a student.
- [CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) - This form is required to be completed for any student who will participate in the 2014-2015 alternate assessments. This includes the new Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) which has been referred to as [NCSC](#) for language arts & mathematics and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist.
- A new page 9 of the IEP: STATE AND DISTRICT TESTING AND ACCOMMODATIONS form and revision to the IEP Manual has been distributed to special education directors and will soon be posted on the CSDE Special Education Web site.

Any questions about the Updates for Special Populations should be directed to joseph.amenta@ct.gov or janet.stuck@ct.gov or by phone at 860-713-6860.

Students who attend Approved Private Special Education Programs Reminder

Students **placed by districts** in Approved Private Special Education Programs are considered public school students and must be tested. The Approved Private Special Education Programs within Connecticut are required to conduct the testing for students enrolled in their programs. However, the local sending school district is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the appropriate testing occurs for each eligible student. It is recommended that local sending districts check with each student's program to ensure that testing is completed.

Students Who Move During Testing Reminder

Students who move from one Connecticut district/school to another, must complete any tests that were not completed prior to moving. Tests that were completed or are in progress will transfer to the new district/school once the student is registered in TIDE by the new district. Students who change schools or districts during testing **may** be able to resume the test from where they left off at the previous school or district—but only if they have the same form assignment at the new school. This means in the majority of cases the student will receive a

new test rather than a continuation of the one already started. The new school or district will be able to check ORS to determine if the student previously started or completed any tests.

If a student completed **all** testing prior to moving, the student's record in TIDE should **not** be transferred to the new district/school.

Students who move into a district from out-of-state or private schools have until June 13, 2014, to complete all testing.

Data Verification Reminder

Districts administering the Smarter Balanced Field Test should ensure that the following demographic fields are accurately noted in TIDE prior to the end of the testing window on June 13, 2014:

- 1) Required fields (*) noted on pages 40 - 43 of the [TIDE User Guide](#).
- 2) The following non-required fields should also be verified:
 - Last Name
 - First Name
 - Middle Name
 - Birthdate
- 3) Districts should also keep records of the following information. Students who:
 - Are absent during the entire testing window
 - Leave a test blank
 - Are unable to complete testing due to technical difficulties
 - Are no longer enrolled in a Connecticut Public School District
 - Are ELL Exempt for ELA tests

Information regarding documenting this information in TIDE will be provided to DTCs, once this functionality becomes available.

Contact the Academic Office at 1-860-713-6860 or SmarterBalancedCT@ct.gov with questions regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. View past Smarter Balanced Field Test Updates on the [CSDE Web site](#).

Smarter Balanced Help Desk Contact Information:
1-855-833-1969 or smarterbalancedhelpdesk@ets.org.